

## **Statement of Australian Government priorities Public Skills Australia**

This Statement sets out the Australian Government's priorities for **Public Skills Australia**.

### **Government policy priorities and objectives for all JSCs**

We expect your organisation to be actively involved in:

- addressing Australia's productivity challenges, including undertaking activity that supports building a skilled, adaptable and inclusive workforce
- working with my department, First Nations peoples, industry (employers and unions) and other JSCs to progress the priority reforms under the Closing the Gap National Agreement
- addressing system inclusivity in gender-segregated industries including by examining education and training pathway choices, and how these intersect with the gender make-up of occupations and industries
- using strategic workforce planning and strong stakeholder engagement to continue building a shared, evidence-based view of the challenges and opportunities for your industries and across JSCs
- reflecting the possible impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and broader digital transformation in workforce planning analysis, particularly emerging and changing skills needs within your industry sectors, and incorporating data, digital and AI learning outcomes into the design and review of qualifications and training products
- ensuring all updates to training products embed Qualification Reform principles to deliver streamlined, relevant, and future-ready qualifications. This includes reducing duplication, aligning with current and emerging workforce needs across jurisdictions, and responding proactively to industry and learner expectations.

### **Government policy priorities and objectives for Public Skills Australia**

We acknowledge that Public Skills Australia has a significant program of work underway in support of the public safety and government sectors.

Recognising your existing workplan and government priorities as they relate to your industries, we expect Public Skills Australia to also:

- continue to progress actions to consider and address barriers to participation in Auslan, interpreting and translating qualifications to support an increase in the number of qualified Auslan interpreters as identified in the final report from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- collaborate with government and industry (employers and unions) to identify opportunities to strengthen capabilities of the public safety and government workforces in preparing for and responding to emergency events, including identification of emerging or revised skill requirements
- explore opportunities for the national VET system to better support the skills and training needs of Australian Defence Force veterans transitioning into civilian employment, with consideration to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide recommendation to increase opportunities for members to gain civilian qualifications from Defence training and education

- consider how to improve the sustainability of the local government workforce by determining skill requirements across metro, regional and remote areas and developing solutions to address these requirements, with consideration to relevant recommendations of the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- continue to contribute to strengthening the training of educators, identifying barriers to attracting and retaining trainers and assessors and by working with employers, governments and training providers to implement strategies that address sector-specific challenges.

### **Partnering for success**

Success of the JSC Program depends on your organisation working in close partnership with your industries, employers, unions and other stakeholder groups, my department and other government agencies. This includes establishing and strengthening formal partnerships with First Nations peoples, enabling shared decision-making, and supporting projects that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to determine and drive their own economic development. Our department will support your efforts to bring together industry (employers and unions) and government to shape and drive workforce solutions across the economy, including by providing information and fostering connections across government.